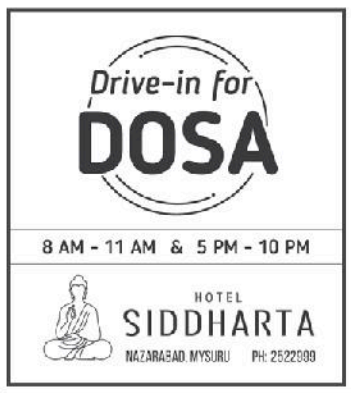

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 48 No. 15 Pages: 12 Rs. 3.00
Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 22 / 23
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MYSURU Monday 3rd March 2025
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Budget Session

- Governor addresses joint sitting of State Legislature
- CM Siddaramaiah to present Budget on March 7

Bengaluru, Mar. 3 (KMS&DM)- The fortnight-long Budget Session of the State Legislature, this year's first Legislature Session, began at the Vidhana Soudha here this morning, with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot addressing the joint sitting of the State Legislature.

Conventionally, the Governor's address was drawn up by the Government, with a list of achievements of the State Government.

Addressing the Session, the Governor said, "I am extremely delighted to have addressed the joint Session. My Government has speeded up development and has also been successful in further strengthening the State's economy. My Government is committed for wiping out the tears of even the last man in the society, in keeping with Mahatma Gandhi's words."

"Several leaders had said that the State would lag behind in development due to the ambitious welfare schemes announced by the Government and the economy would sink further. But such remarks have been belied with the Government recording new highs in every sector. Even the Government revenue has increased and the State is witnessing a massive flow of private and international investments," Gehlot said.

The Governor's address today was much anticipated, especially since the Raj Bhavan and the State Government have been at odds ever since Gehlot allowed investigation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in MUDA sites allotment case last year. In the months since, Gehlot has either rejected or sent back several bills passed by both Houses for clarification, deepening the divide.

Reacting to the Governor's address, the main Opposition, the BJP said that the Governor has only read out the address drawn up by the Congress Government. But the fact is that the State is glaring at an economic crisis and targeted the Government for 'high borrowings.'

(See SESSION on page 7)

VOICE OF THE READER

Bannimantap bus stand: Monumentally bad planning

Sir,

This refers to the news item titled ***"KSRTC Bannimantap bus stand work gains pace"*** in yesterday's *Star of Mysore*.

Constructing a Rs.129 crore major KSRTC bus terminus on a 24-acre land at Bannimantap is monumentally bad planning.

It has been cogently argued against and objected to, in the past few months, by various eminent members of Mysuru's public, but it appears that government is blind to reality and deaf to reason.

During the period of our iconic Dasara festival, when Mysuru gets packed with lakhs of visitors and vehicles, and many thousands arrive in and depart from Mysuru on a daily basis by buses, traffic jams and utter confusion will be inevitable. Worse, it will have no remedy, because this bus terminus is precisely on the *Jumboo Savari* route.

It is not clear whether the government consulted the KSRTC and the Traffic Police before finalising the plans for construction.

Is it located according to the Comprehensive Development Plans (CDP) or Master Plan for Mysuru?

Shockingly, it appears that all this planning and progress of the project to the tender stage, has been done without a traffic survey!

Vombatkere

The government officials, who have moved this project to this stage, need to be called to public accountability, before any contract is concluded.

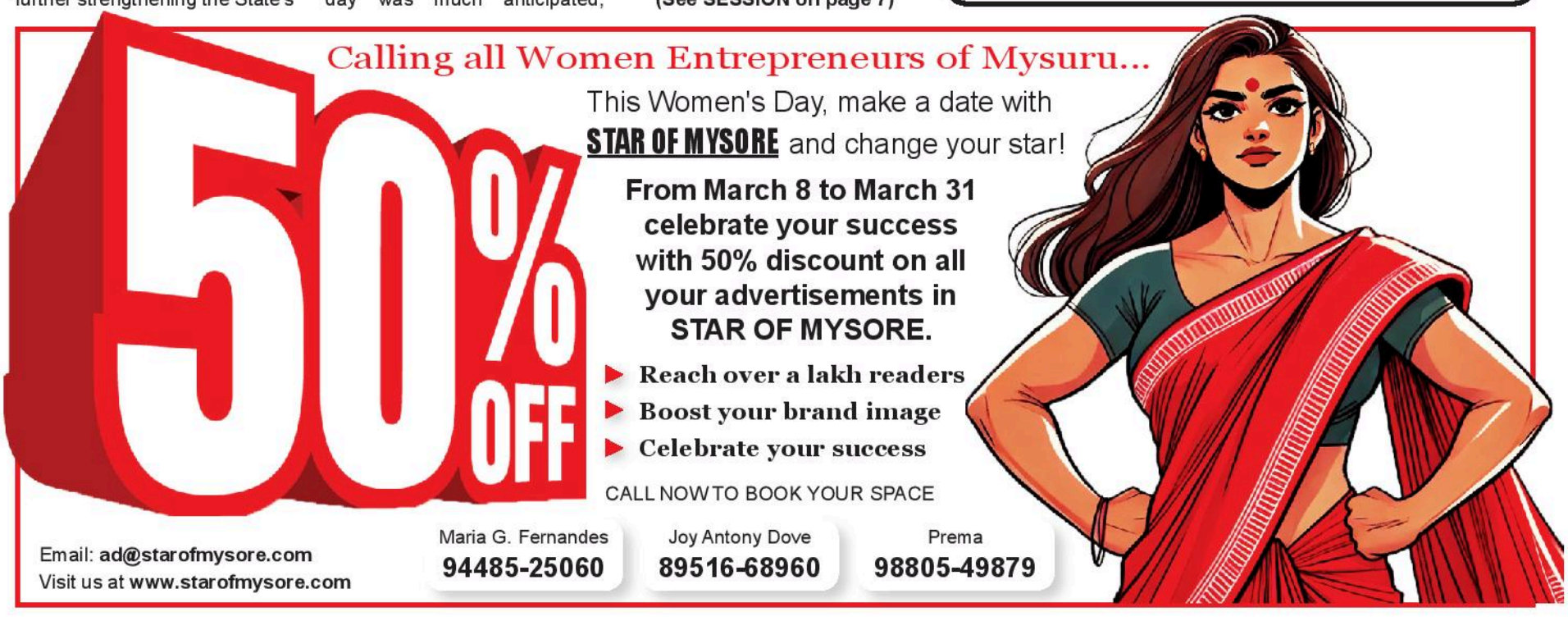
—Maj. Gen. S.G. Vombatkere
Mysuru
3.3.2025

NOTE: *When some Senators went to US President Ronald Reagan with a problem seeking his intervention, he told them, "The government is the problem." Same can be said of our problems with the Bannimantap bus stand.*

Assuming that the government has indeed consulted the KSRTC and the Traffic Police, the opinion of these two bodies must have been YES.

"Yes Master," is the habitual response of our bureaucracy as during Mughal days of "Ji Huzoor." No officer wants to invite trouble by displeasing the political masters.

There cannot be any public accountability on the part of government officials; accountability lies with the Ministers, Cabinet, the Executive, NOT the Bureaucracy in such decision making. — **Ed**


Calling all Women Entrepreneurs of Mysuru...
This Women's Day, make a date with
STAR OF MYSORE and change your star!
From March 8 to March 31
celebrate your success
with 50% discount on all
your advertisements in
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Reach over a lakh readers
Boost your brand image
Celebrate your success
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STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 3rd March 2025

District-level Quiz: Rotary Vijayanagar wins Trophy

Mangaluru, Mar. 3- Rotary Club of Mangalore Central, as part of Rotary movement awareness campaign, conducted their 19th Annual District-level Inter-Club Rotary Awareness Quiz contest on Feb. 28 at Hotel Moti Mahal in Mangaluru.

Rotary Club of Mysore Vijayanagar represented by Rtn. H.M. Harish bagged the prestigious Rotary Quiz Trophy while Rotary Club Puttur East represented by Rtn. Dr. Sooryanarayana and Rtn. Prameela Rao were declared runners-up; third place was secured by Rotary Club of Mangalore Seaside represented by K. Manohar and M.K. Ashok.

The Quiz was based exclusively on Rotary related affairs, matters and issues.

Mysuru-based eminent Industrialist and Rotary Past District Governor Rtn. Gururaj was the chief guest. In his address, he lauded Dr. Devdas Rai for conducting this quiz for the past 18 years and his invaluable contributions to Rotary Movement.

Prize winner Rtn. H.M. Harish with PDG Rtn. Gururaj.

Later, he awarded the Rotary Glittering Trophy, Certificates and cash prizes of Rs. 3,000 to the winners and runners up.

In all, 12 Teams from Mysuru, Mangaluru, Surathkal, Deralakatte, Puttur, participated in this contest.

Rtn. Dr. Devdas Rai was the Quiz Master. Assistant Governor Rtn. K.M. Hegde, who was the guest of honour, released the weekly club news bulletin "Centor."

Rotary Club of Mangalore Central President Rtn. Brian Pinto presided.

Secretary Rtn. Rajesh Seetharam presented the monthly report. Past President Rtn. Raj Gopal Rai proposed the vote of thanks.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

SCREEN TEST: ***It started with an innocuous phone call and in no time I was face-to-face with a fearsome man on my laptop screen. "You are under digital arrest," he said.***

Not one to run away from trouble, I collected my thoughts and replied that, not just me, everybody is under digital arrest. They have been for years. You talk to people, but they hem and haw, their eyes glued to their screens. Even young lovers sit together looking at their phones. Not just them, car drivers, traffic cops, walkers, sellers who should be looking out for customers, they are all under digital arrest. Nobody does a thing these days except that!

The man looked agitated. "You don't understand. This is far more serious than you think." Overcome by a wave of honesty, I admitted that I cannot go to sleep until I down two episodes of my ongoing series — neat, as in without a break or ads. The man shook his head and threw up his hands in the air. "You have no idea what you are talking about, and the trouble you are in," he said.

Then he reached out for a piece of paper and read out that I had laundered money on foreign trips. That made me think. It seems on my recent trip to London and its neighbouring cities, supported by my generous wife, I had been under his watch. Even though I had avoided the pubs and taverns, perhaps I had made some errors of judgement. I had admired a few houses, and clean, quiet neighbourhoods like St. John's Wood and Hampstead, but was that a crime? I had gambled a little at the pier and laid a few bets, so what? But I could be wrong. My knowledge of lawful actions could be outdated.

As he rattled off the gravity of my crime, I realised I had always been afraid of the authorities. Wasn't I aware of what went on in Police Stations? Which ordinary citizen in their right minds would want to have anything to do with any government Department? I would be bankrupt, paying legal fees to rich lawyers, or be behind bars in this just and fair country.

I paid up, and praised the government. He said I was off the hook. Relieved, I at once switched on the TV to watch my favourite show and erase the memory of the arrest.

— Anupam Srivastava in The Times of India

NEWS SPARKLERS

Unfixed pothole on street turns into banana plantation

El Cerro: What began as a broken water pipe in Havana's El Cerro neighbourhood is now a small banana plantation, after local authorities forgot to fix the pothole.

Cuba's infrastructure crisis is a well-known fact, with around 70% of the country's roads deemed in "regular" or "poor" condition, but some streets are in such a bad state that they can hardly be considered functional. For example, a street in the El Cerro district of Havana, has become famous for having a veritable banana plantation square in the middle of it. The large pothole housing this urban oddity began as a broken water pipe that was eventually fixed by the local authorities three years ago. The asphalt, however, was never replaced, and at one point, plants began taking root in the massive pothole. One of these plants was a banana tree which gradually turned into a small plantation that residents tend to religiously.

Man suffers collapsed lung after 20 pushups

Henan: Doctors in Henan, China, were shocked by the case of a middle-aged man who suffered a pneumothorax after mild physical exercise – 20 pushups and a few minutes of skipping rope.

Last month, the unnamed man started doing pushups and skipping rope as a way of losing weight, but he only managed to do two sets of pushups and skip ropes for a few minutes when he started feeling bad. He stopped and went about his day, but when he woke up the next day, he started experiencing severe chest pain and difficulty breathing, especially after minimal physical effort, like climbing stairs. At one point, the pain got so bad that he went to the hospital where doctors diagnosed him with pneumothorax. The effort he had put in during those two sets of pushups and a short session of skipping rope was so great that he punctured his lung, causing it to collapse.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Diabetic patients may not have classical symptoms of heart attack. Hence, should be monitored closely.

By Dr. Bipin Chandra Aditya Dasari - Consultant – Cardiology – Interventional
Manipal Hospital, Mysore

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

21 Health Inspectors return to parent Department

Mysuru, Mar. 3 (SPN&DM)- In an administrative move, the Commissioner for Food Safety and Drug Administration, Bengaluru, has ordered relievement of 21 Health Inspectors of the Health and Family Welfare Department, who were on deputation to the Food Safety and Drug Administration Department for a year. Following relievement, the Heath Inspectors have been asked to report at their parent Department for next posting.

The 21 Health Inspectors relieved include C. Rajesh of MCC Zone-2, M. Shivakumar, serving at Malavalli, C.S. Santosh, serving at Pandavapura, R.N. Basavaraj serving at K.R. Pet, H.R. Srinivas Babu serving at Srirangapatna, C.N. Manjunath, serving at Hunsur, M. Sandeep, serving at Nanjangud and B.C. Kishore, serving at Mysuru Rural.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284 feet**	Maximum **2,859 feet**
Today's level **112.33 feet**	Today's level **2,274.66 feet**	Today's level **2,835.81 feet**
Last year's level **89.90 feet**	Last year's level **2,269.74 feet**	Last year's level **2,830.61 feet**
Yesterday's level **112.46 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,274.81 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,836.24 feet**
Today's Inflow **120 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **82 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **13 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **1,564 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **900 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **500 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- *Zebras run from side to side to being chased by a predator.*
- *Zebras have excellent eyesight and hearing.*
- *Zebras stand up while sleeping.*
- *Zebras eat mostly grass.*
- *Horses and Zebras share a common ancestor.*
- *Just like the famous wildebeest migration, zebras participate in mass migrations in Tanzania.*
- *They follow the seasonal rains in search of fresh grass and water.*
- *Zebras are highly adaptable and can be found in a variety of habitats, including grasslands, savannas, woodlands and open plains.*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Young author: So you find fault with the end of my essay. What is wrong with it sir?
Editor: It's too far from the beginning.

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 87.33
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 110.05
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 23.78
1 Euro	= Rs. 90.96

VOICE OF THE READER

Retain the name 'Princess Road' for the sake of antiquity

Sir,

I have read all the reports you have made on Princess Road renaming issue. I can only request you to continue to support the voices that are fighting to retain the name Princess Road, for the sake of antiquity and memory.

Accordingly I express as follows: **Ironic reality of our democracy.**

When the people's representatives and the government missionary turn blind, mute and deaf to the representations, demonstrations, appeals and voice of its own people, the stinging realisations dawn on the people.

We are today witnessing such a situation in Mysuru, where the people of Mysuru have vociferously voiced their objections, resentments and abhorrence to audaciously tabled renaming of 'Princess Road' to new name 'Siddaramaiah Arogya Marga', the government seems undeterred.

Unfortunately, the government officials responsible for Mysuru City, who claimed unavailability of documentary records or evidence as to the name 'Princess Road', are unable to defend their stance against the various documents presented thus far including Maps published by both State and Central governments, postal envelops, etc., by the people of Mysuru.

For the people of Mysuru who have been the beneficiaries of the welfare-oriented, democratic administration and policy-making of their King, where their voices were not only heard but their pleas addressed, problems resolved and their welfare being taken care in advance by the King's administration, this action of the government is repugnant.

With this, I appeal the officials concerned or the Chief Minister himself to intervene. Let the name Princess Road shine, marking the history of the region, memories of the time and sentiments of people.

—Vijayashree Urs,
Advocate and Consultant
Mysuru
24.2.2025

DC instructs for smooth conduct of SSLC exam

Mysuru, Mar. 3 (DM)- With the annual SSLC exam (2024-25) scheduled to take place across the State from Mar. 21 to Apr. 4, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy directed the officials to ensure smooth, fair and organised conduct of the exam, leaving no scope for any lapses.

Presiding over a preliminary meeting at the ZP hall here recently, Lakshmikanth Reddy asked the officials to keep constant vigil on exam centres. Pointing out that there are 133 exam centres spread across the district, the DC said that the Police must provide security at all the exam centres for the smooth conduct of the exam.

"The exams to be held from Mar. 21 to Apr. 4 will be conducted in a strict manner with all necessary measures in place. A total of 37,904 students have enrolled for the exam in the district, including 19,114 boys and 18,790 girls. All the exam centres have been installed with CCTV cameras, with webcasting in place. Direction boards have been put in the exam centres for the benefit of students. Measures have been taken for providing drinking water, toilet and such other amenities to students", he said and asked the officials to ensure incident free exams in the district, by following all Government guidelines, instructions and orders.

He further said that there will be 12 centres in H.D. Kote Taluk, 15 in Hunsur, 11 in K.R. Nagar, 19 in Mysuru North BEO Office jurisdiction, 15 in Mysuru South BEO office jurisdiction, 18 in Mysuru rural BEO office jurisdiction, 12 in Periyapatna, 13 in T. Narasipur and 18 in Nanjangud.

ZP CEO S. Ukesh Kumar, SP N. Vishnuvardhana, Additional DC Dr. P. Shivaraju, DCP M. Muthuraju, DDPI S.T. Javaregowda, DDPUE Mariswamy and other officials were present.

MP calls for adequate bus services for PUC and SSLC students

Yaduveer

Mysuru, Mar.3 (SBD&DM)- With the II PUC exam having already begun and the SSLC exam scheduled to commence from Mar. 21, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar has urged the KSRTC authorities to ensure proper bus services for the benefit of students.

In a press statement, Yaduveer said that SSLC and PU exams are an important phase in the life of a student. Several students appearing for the exams have complained that buses are not coming on time and also not stopping at designated stops. As such, the KSRTC must look into the matter and ensure that there timely bus services for the students appearing for the exam, so that they can write exam smoothly without any worries or anxiety, he said.

Pointing out that many students, especially from far off areas, are dependent on KSRTC bus services for reaching their exam centres on time, the MP said that the KSRTC authorities must direct the bus drivers, conductors and other operating staff to compulsorily halt at designated bus stops and allow students to board buses, the statement said.

SBI donates potable water units to Mysore Varsity

Mysuru, Mar.3 (MTY&DM)- As part of its CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiative, the Public-sector State Bank of India (SBI) has donated three potable water units to the University of Mysore Library Block, University Engineering College premises and Post-Graduate Boys Hostel at Manasagangothri.

UoM Vice-Chancellor Prof. N.K. Loknath and SBI Mysuru Zone Deputy General Manager Arun Kumar Panigrahi jointly inaugurated the drinking water units.

SBI Regional Manager P.V.S. Ranganath, UoM staff Govindegowda, Finance Officer K.S. Rekha, SBI Chief Manager Sudha Koteshwara, Netravathi and others were present.

New team of Rotary Ivory City

A group photo of the new team of Rotary Ivory City Mysuru for 2025-26 *(sitting from left):* ***Rtn. Dr. Asha Shekar, President- Elect (2026-27), Rtn. S.N. Shobha, Secretary (2024-25), Rtn. K. Shashidhar, President (2024-25), Rtn. Keshav B. Kanchan, President (2025-26), Rtn. M. K. Mukesh, Secretary (2025-26);*** *(standing from left):* ***Rtn. Shabana Iftekhar, Director - Community Service, Rtn. Dr. H.S. Lakshmi, Sergeant-at-Arms, Rtn. Latha Sachi, Director - Club Service, Rtn. Jyothi Mukesh, Director - Youth Service, Rtn. Then Perumal, Director - Vocational Service, Rtn. Dr. G. L. Shekar, Director - International Service, Rtn. S. Balachandar, Vice-President and Rtn. Perumal, Treasurer.***

Vibrant cultural performances mark Seventh Annual Day of Dunes Public School

Dunes Public School, Mysuru, celebrated its Seventh Annual Day recently with vibrant cultural performances and by recognising academic achievers. The event was a perfect blend of entertainment, motivation and unity. Samiullah Ajju, former Corporator (MCC Ward No. 9), was the chief guest. School Secretary Naveed, President Syeda Uzma Quadri and staff were present.

DKS' CM bid gains steam; seniors say it's inevitable

Karnataka poised for high-stakes leadership showdown, marking a major shift in political landscape

Bengaluru, Mar. 3 (Agencies)- As speculation swirls over a possible leadership change in Karnataka, senior Congress leaders M. Veerappa Moily and Basavaraju V. Shivaganga have thrown their weight behind Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar (DKS), making a strong case for his elevation to the State's top post.

Speaking at a public event in Udupi, Moily reminisced about his role in Shivakumar's political rise. "I was the one who secured his first MLA ticket. Today, he stands as one of Karnataka's most influential leaders. We all want to see him as Chief Minister soon," said the former CM.

Moily also dismissed criticisms against Shivakumar, calling them politically motivated. "Some may target him for personal reasons, but that does not diminish his contributions. His rise to the Chief Minister's position is not something that needs to be granted — it is something he has earned," he asserted.

Echoing Moily's sentiments, Channagiri MLA Basavaraju Shivaganga went a step further, asserting that Shivakumar's ascension was inevitable and would happen by December 2025.

D.K. Shivakumar

"Write it down, it will happen by December. If you need, I can even write it in blood — D.K. Shivakumar will become Chief Minister by then," Shivaganga boldly stated.

He further claimed that Shivakumar would hold the Chief Minister's office for the next 7.5 years, indicating confidence in Congress's ability to retain power in the 2028 Assembly elections.

"Once he takes charge, he will continue to lead for the next full term as well," Shivaganga told reporters.

The Channagiri MLA credited Shivakumar for revitalising the Congress in Karnataka, particularly by increasing its seat tally in both the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. He emphasised that the party High Command was fully aware of Shivakumar's contributions and the sentiment among leaders and workers.

"He has invested his resources, sacrificed a lot and organised the party from the grassroots level. His silence or composure should not be mistaken for weakness. The High Command knows everything and I am 100 percent certain he will be CM by December," Shivaganga added.

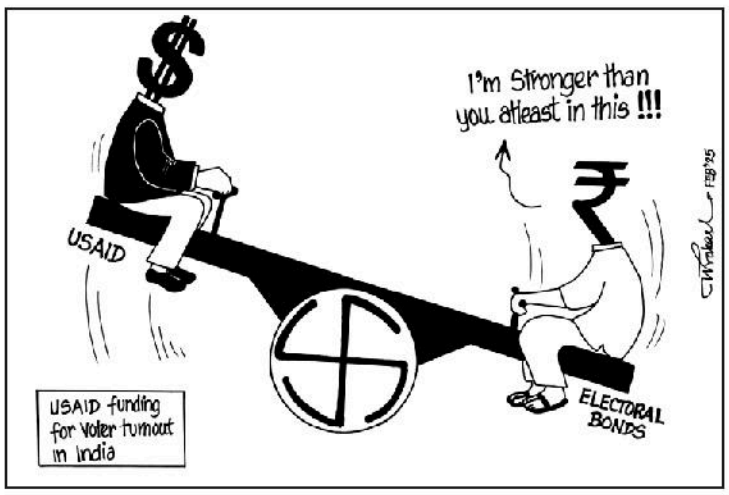
The buzz around a potential transition has been growing within Congress circles, especially since the intense battle for the CM post following the party's victory in May 2023.

While Siddaramaiah ultimately took charge, there were murmurs of a "rotational Chief Minister" arrangement, with Shivakumar expected to take over midway. However, Congress has never officially confirmed such a deal.

When asked about the possibility of a leadership change, Siddaramaiah remained non-committal, stating in February, "It is for the High Command to decide." His response, while diplomatic, has done little to quell speculation that a transition could be on the horizon. If the supposed power-sharing deal is indeed real, December 2025 could mark a major shift in Karnataka's political landscape.

TEASER

By N. Prakash



Rs. 6 lakh stolen from car pouch

Mysuru, Mar. 3 (SBD&KS)- Miscreants, who broke the rear window glass of a car have lifted Rs. 6 lakh cash kept in the pouch of the car seat. The incident took place near the Mysuru South Sub-Registrar's Office in Kuvempunagar Police limits on Feb. 27.

The man, who lost the cash is N. Kumaraswamy, a realtor and a resident of Helavarahundi in T. Narasipur.

Kumaraswamy, who is into real estate business, was acting as a middleman between the seller and buyer of houses, sites and agricultural lands in Mysuru city and district.

On Feb. 27, Kumaraswamy had come in his Hyundai i10 car near the Mysuru South Sub-Registrar's Office to get an agricultural land registered, where the buyer had given him Rs. 6 lakh cash to give it to the seller. Kumaraswamy, who took the cash, kept it in the pouch of his car seat, locked the car and went inside the Sub-Registrar's Office to complete the registration process.

After the registration process was completed, Kumaraswamy came near his car only to find the rear window glass broken. On checking the car, he found the cash missing and lodged a complaint. Kuvempunagar Police, who have registered a case, are investigating.

CM urged to release Rs. 150 crore for Kabini drinking water project

Mysuru, Mar. 3 (BLU&DM)- Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) Spokesperson M. Lakshmana and former Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) Chairman H.V. Rajeev have appealed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to release Rs. 150 crore for the execution of Kabini second and third stage drinking water project for Mysuru.

The two leaders, who met CM Siddaramaiah at Bengaluru on Saturday and submitted a memorandum, apprised the CM on the benefits of the water project for Mysuru. Pointing out that the then UPA Government at the Centre had sanctioned Rs. 110 crore for the project, they said that the first, second and third stages of the project will together supply 180 MLD (Million Litres per Day) of water to Mysuru.

"The execution of the second stage of Kabini water project will get us only an additional 30 MLD of water, which is not enough for meeting the drinking water needs of layouts on the city outskirts. As such, the installation of 2 more motor pumps, which can pump 80 MLD of water will help in supplying water to houses in a total area of 382 Sq.Kms. In addition, water can be supplied to many villages coming under Varuna, Chamundeshwari, Nanjangud and H.D. Kote Assembly segments and as well to several localities coming under Sriramapura, Kadakola and Bogadi Taluk Panchayat limits. In this backdrop, the release of Rs. 150 crore for execution of second and third stages of Kabini drinking water project, will address the drinking water woes of not only the city, but also the surrounding villages," Lakshmana and Rajeev said in the memorandum.

KPCC Spokesperson M. Lakshmana submitting a memorandum to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah as others look on.

Ramzan fasting time-table

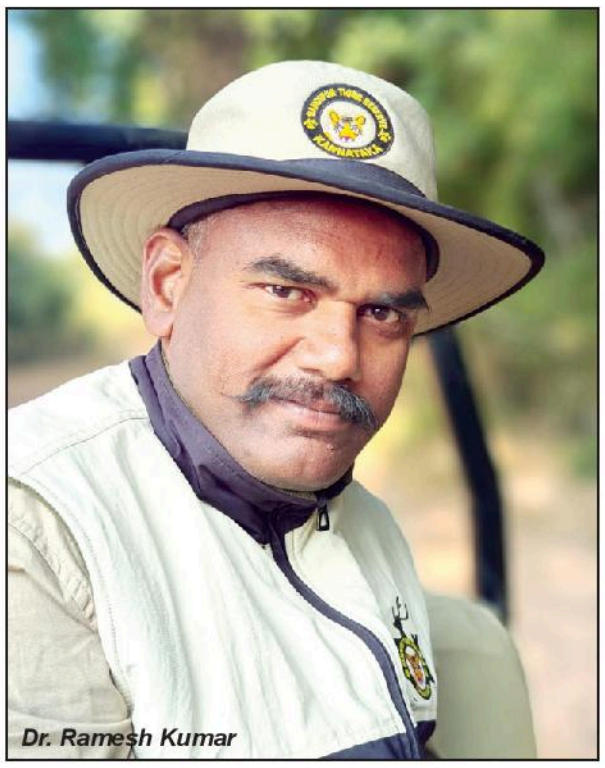
Mysuru, Mar. 3- The following is the Sehar Iftaar timing pertaining to Mysuru City approved by Ulmas and published by Sir Khazi of Mysuru Hazarath Moulana Mohamed Usman Shariff.

Date	Ending of Sehari	Azan Fajr	Iftar Timing
March 3	5.22 am	5.27 am	6.35 pm
March 4	5.22 am	5.27 am	6.35 pm
March 5	5.22 am	5.27 am	6.35 pm
March 6	5.22 am	5.27 am	6.35 pm
March 7	5.20 am	5.25 am	6.35 pm
March 8	5.20 am	5.25 am	6.35 pm
March 9	5.20 am	5.25 am	6.35 pm
March 10	5.20 am	5.25 am	6.35 pm
March 11	5.18 am	5.23 am	6.36 pm
March 12	5.18 am	5.23 am	6.36 pm
March 13	5.18 am	5.23 am	6.36 pm
March 14	5.16 am	5.21 am	6.36 pm
March 15	5.16 am	5.21 am	6.36 pm
March 16	5.15 am	5.20 am	6.36 pm
March 17	5.15 am	5.20 am	6.36 pm
March 18	5.13 am	5.18 am	6.36 pm
March 19	5.13 am	5.18 am	6.36 pm
March 20	5.13 am	5.18 am	6.36 pm
March 21	5.13 am	5.18 am	6.36 pm
March 22	5.10 am	5.15 am	6.36 pm
March 23	5.10 am	5.15 am	6.36 pm
March 24	5.10 am	5.15 am	6.36 pm
March 25	5.10 am	5.15 am	6.36 pm
March 26	5.08 am	5.13 am	6.36 pm
March 27	5.08 am	5.13 am	6.36 pm
March 28	5.08 am	5.13 am	6.36 pm
March 29	5.08 am	5.13 am	6.36 pm
March 30	5.06 am	5.11 am	6.36 pm

For details, contact: Sir Khazi Moulana Mohamed Usman Shariff on Mob: 93423-39646 or 78929-05460.

World Wildlife Day Today...

Guarding the Wild


Dr. Ramesh Kumar

March 3 is designated as World Wildlife Day by the UN General Assembly. On this occasion, we celebrate the extraordinary diversity of life on our planet and acknowledge the urgent need for its protection.

Wildlife plays a crucial role in maintaining our ecosystems' health and our communities' well-being. However, many species face unprecedented threats due to habitat destruction, climate change and pollution.

To mark this World Wildlife Day, *Star of Mysore* caught up with Dr. P. Ramesh Kumar, a dynamic and fearless forest officer to gain insights into the significance of wildlife conservation.

Former Director of Bandipur Tiger Reserve and an Indian Forest Service (IFS) Officer from the 2007 batch, under his leadership, Bandipur Tiger Reserve has been ranked the second-best managed reserve among India's 53 tiger reserves.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar, who assumed the role of Conservator of Forests in 2024, currently leads Project Tiger in five Tiger Reserves of Karnataka. – Ed

By Shadan Muneer

Star of Mysore (SOM): How does Forest Department commemorate World Wildlife Day and what message do you aim to communicate?

Dr. Ramesh Kumar: We take pride in celebrating the beauty and diversity of our planet's wildlife. As part of the observance, we organise awareness programmes, festivals and competitions for students and volunteers at the divisional-level. Since our primary responsibility is to protect forests and wildlife, we conduct year-round educational initiatives to raise awareness.

For example, **Bandipur Yuva Mithra** educates students from villages surrounding Bandipur, as well as local communities, on conservation and environmental issues. In India, only 5 percent of the land is designated as protected areas, specifically for wildlife conservation. Safeguarding them is crucial in ensuring a future where nature and humanity can coexist in harmony.

SOM: How does this year's theme "Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet," resonate with the conservation efforts?

Dr. Ramesh Kumar: Investing in wildlife is vital for a sustainable future. Forests and wildlife provide essential ecosystem services and create employment opportunities. Our efforts also focus on community investment through eco-development initiatives, such as crafting with lantana, making agarbathi and mushroom cultivation, alongside vocational skills.

Each tiger reserve has an Eco Development Committee that provides interest-free loans to empower local communities, fostering a stronger connection between people and forests. Through these initiatives, we have created employment opportunities for approximately 1,000 local individuals annually.

SOM: As the head of Project Tiger overseeing Karnataka's five Reserves, could you explain its significance?

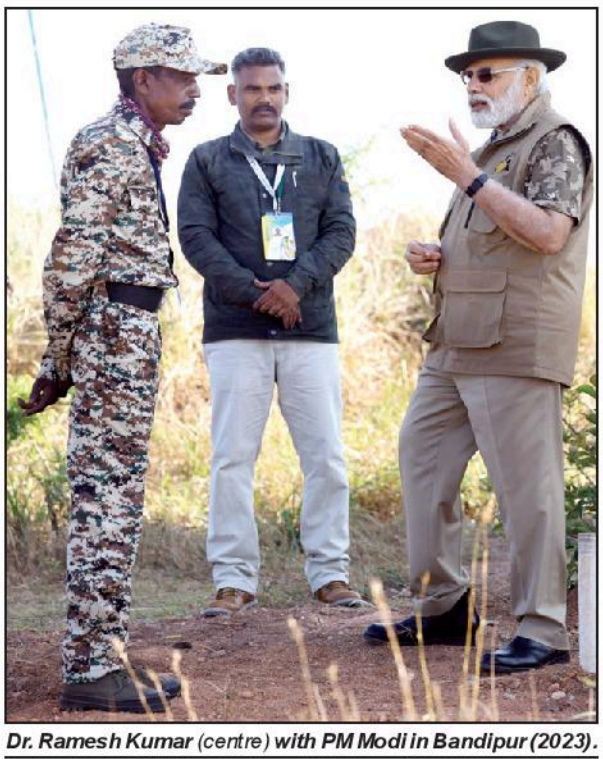
Dr. Ramesh Kumar: Project Tiger was launched in 1973, with the primary goal of protecting India's declining tiger population and strengthening conservation efforts. This initiative is implemented across Karnataka's five Tiger Reserves — Bandipur, Nagarahole, Bhadra, BRT and Kali.

The project includes critical measures such as establishing anti-poaching camps staffed by local communities, forming patrolling squads, protecting prey species, building staff housing, mitigating human-wildlife conflict, implementing fire protection strategies and creating waterholes during droughts. These efforts have significantly contributed to the increase in tiger numbers, along with improvements in breeding success and health monitoring.

SOM: India is home to 75 percent of world's wild tiger population, with Bandipur Tiger Reserve boasting the highest density of tigers in Karnataka. How has the tiger population grown in recent years?

Dr. Ramesh Kumar: When Project Tiger was launched in 1973, Bandipur had just 12 tigers. Today, that number has risen to 191, making it the leading tiger reserve in Karnataka and the second-highest in India after Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand.

Karnataka as a whole is home to 563 tigers, while India's total tiger population was estimated at 3,682 as of July 2023 — accounting for approximately 75 percent of the global wild tiger population. **This project successfully celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2023, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bandipur.**


Dr. Ramesh Kumar** (centre) **with PM Modi in Bandipur (2023).

SOM: Your tenure in Bandipur was marked by an exemplary record, with no reported cases of poaching or forest fires. What were the strategies?

Dr. Ramesh Kumar: A well-structured conservation strategy was key in eliminating poaching and minimising forest fires. The reserve has 48 anti-poaching camps staffed with 200 local tribal watchers, in addition to forest guards and Deputy Range Forest Officers. These camps are crucial for surveillance against poaching and wildlife trafficking, with teams patrolling up to 10 kilometres inside the forest.

To prevent forest fires, we adopt a proactive approach, beginning fire preparedness planning as early as November. We create fire threat maps based on historical data and conduct specialised fire prevention workshops. During peak fire season, we increase manpower by deploying 500 additional fire watchers, supplementing our 200 anti-poaching personnel.

Additionally, Bandipur has 27 fire watchtowers manned by local experts, ensuring early detection and rapid response. We also use advanced fire-fighting equipment, such as leaf blowers, to quickly contain and extinguish fires.

SOM: Does radio collaring help track and conserve tigers? What alternative methods are used to monitor the tiger population?

Dr. Ramesh Kumar: Yes, radio collaring plays a crucial role in tracking tiger movements, mitigating human-animal conflicts and supporting wildlife research. We previously used this method and may consider reintroducing it to map tiger territories and migration patterns, particularly in areas prone to human-wildlife conflict.

However, the primary monitoring method remains camera traps, which are strategically placed to capture images of tigers. Bandipur alone has 612 camera pairs used for individual identification and population estimation, making this the most reliable technique for tiger censuses in India.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), conducts a comprehensive tiger census every four years, helping track population trends. Additionally, annual censuses are carried out within tiger reserves to provide more localised data on tiger populations.

[Continued on Page - 6]

PM Modi goes on Lion Safari at Gir Wildlife Sanctuary

Ahmedabad, Mar. 3 (Agencies) - Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a lion safari at Gir Wildlife Sanctuary this morning, marking World Wildlife Day during his visit to Gujarat.

He spent the night at Sinh Sadan, a forest guest house in Sasan, after offering prayers at the Somnath Temple last evening.

Accompanied by Ministers and senior forest officials, PM Modi toured the sanctuary before chairing the seventh meeting of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) at Sasan Gir.

The PM also took to microblogging site X, sharing an inspiring message on the occasion, "Today, on #WorldWildlifeDay, let's reiterate our commitment to protect and preserve the incredible biodiversity of our planet. Every species plays a vital role — let's safeguard their future for generations to come! We also take pride in India's contributions towards preserving and protecting wildlife."

Prime Minister Modi also visited Vantara, an animal rescue, conservation and rehabilitation centre at the Reliance Jamnagar refinery complex, which provides sanctuary, rehabilitation and medical care to animals rescued from abuse and exploitation.

Women Police trainees gear up for bike riding

Mysuru, Mar. 3 (SPN&BCT)- In a significant step towards empowering women Police officers, the Women Police Training School in Mysuru is incorporating specialised motorcycle riding lessons into its curriculum.

With the next training batch set to commence in March, this initiative aims to enhance mobility, efficiency and self-reliance among women Police personnel.

Mysuru is home to Karnataka's only dedicated training school for women Police officers. Traditionally, the programme lasts for eight months, but recognising the need for additional technical skills, the duration has now been extended to ten months.

A major highlight of this extension is the inclusion of motorcycle riding, with trainees receiving practical lessons for an hour each day.

"We have structured the training to ensure that every recruit, regardless of prior experience, gains confidence in riding. Those unfamiliar with motorcycles will start with gearless bikes, while experienced riders will transition to geared motorcycles," said M.S. Geetha, Principal of the Women Police Training School.

Why motorcycle training matters: Beyond just a skill, motorcycle riding is a necessity for modern policing. In cases requiring immediate investigation, women officers often had to rely on male colleagues for transportation, leading to inefficiencies. This new training ensures that women officers can respond swiftly to crime scenes, conduct independent patrols and handle shift duties without logistical hurdles.

"With this training, we eliminate the dependency on male officers for transport. Each officer can now respond to a situation independently, ensuring better resource allocation and quicker response times," Geetha added.

The upcoming batch consists of 258 women Police trainees, with a strong emphasis on both motorcycle riding and technology skills. The training centre has been allotted 20 motorcycles by the central office and the existing fleet at the academy will also be utilised.

This initiative not only enhances operational efficiency but also symbolises a shift towards breaking gender stereotypes in law enforcement. As these officers gear up — literally and figuratively — their new-found mobility is set to redefine the role of women in the Police force.

Guarding the Wildlife

[Continued from Page - 5]

SOM: What strategies are in place to minimise human-animal conflicts?

Dr. Ramesh Kumar: We have specialised task forces, including a Leopard Task Force, an Elephant Task Force and Rapid Response Teams. These teams, comprising over 100 trained personnel, actively manage wildlife encounters and monitor animal movements.

In Bandipur Tiger Reserve, a 110-kilometre railway barricade has been built to prevent elephants from damaging crops. Additionally, solar-powered electric fencing and elephant-proof trenches have been implemented to safeguard farmlands. The Department also provides compensation for wildlife-related damages and conducts public awareness.

SOM: How do you involve local communities in wildlife conservation?

Dr. Ramesh Kumar: Community engagement is a cornerstone of effective wildlife conservation. Local communities hold valuable traditional knowledge about forests and wildlife, making their involvement crucial.

We actively recruit locals as forest guards and fire watchers, leveraging their familiarity with the terrain to strengthen conservation efforts. Every year, we employ around 1,000 individuals from nearby villages, empowering them to act as vigilant monitors who report illegal activities.

Beyond employment, we involve them in tiger censuses, awareness programmes and eco-development projects, ensuring their participation in conservation while providing alternative livelihoods.

SOM: Has technology helped conserve wildlife and curb illegal activities?

Dr. Ramesh Kumar: Technology has significantly enhanced wildlife conservation and helped curb illegal activities. Advanced tools like camera traps, drones and satellite imagery allow real-time monitoring of animal movements and aid in detecting poaching threats.

In Karnataka, there have been no reported cases of organised poaching in recent years, thanks to GSM-enabled camera traps that immediately alert officials to suspicious activity. These technologies also help in managing human-wildlife conflicts by tracking the movement of animals near human settlements.

Education and Conservation

Dr. Ramesh Kumar holds a Ph.D in Environmental Science from the prestigious Indian Agricultural Research Institute in Delhi, following his Master's degree. After completing two years of training with the Indian Forest Service, he enrolled at the Wildlife Institute of India, where he underwent a highly specialised wildlife course before joining the State services in 2010. He initially served as the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) across multiple places, including Ballari, Bannerghatta, Kollegal, Kudremukh and Nagarahole.

With 15 years of experience in wildlife management, Dr. Ramesh Kumar has an impeccable track record. Among the numerous accolades he has received, the most prestigious was the Eco Warrior Award in 2024.

He has authored 10 tiger conservation and management plans, including those for Bandipur and Nagarahole and has published 17 research articles in international journals. Under his leadership, Bandipur Tiger Reserve has been ranked the second-best managed reserve among India's 53 tiger reserves. Additionally, he has spearheaded several tribal development projects and led impactful outreach initiatives, including Bandipur Yuva Mithra.

Lions Club of Mysore Vishwamanava Kuvempu celebrates milestone

Lions District Governor Ln. N. Subramanya presenting Certificate of Appreciation to Ln. R. Ramesh Kumar, President, Lions Club of Mysore Vishwamanava Kuvempu as others look on.

Mysuru, Mar. 3- Lions Club of Mysore Vishwamanava Kuvempu recently hosted Lions District Governor Ln. N. Subramanya's official club visit and 2nd Charter Night programme at The Roost Hotel in city.

Ln. Subramanya praised the club's remarkable growth and commended the services rendered to the community and society. The Club's impressive jump to 15th position in district rankings was attributed to the collective efforts of its members, led by President Ln. Ramesh Kumar.

"Ramesh Kumar is a man of integrity, highly committed and very passionate towards building his club and helping the community," said Subramanya, who also appreciated the entire team for enhancing club membership.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership, the District Governor presented the Certificate of Appreciation to President Ramesh Kumar, acknowledging his exceptional performance and dedication to the club's growth and community service.

Club Administrator M.R. Anand, Zonal Chairperson N.P. Ramesh, Secretary T. Nagarajegowda, Treasurer B.N. Shivakumar, GAT Co-ordinator K. Devegowda, ACDS P. Ramesh, DCS C.D. Krishna, First Lady Vaani Subramanya and others were present.

Food Safety Officers crack down on plastic use in idli making

Mysuru, Mar. 3 (RK&BCT)- Days after the Karnataka Food Safety Department banned the use of plastic sheets in idli preparation at hotels, roadside eateries and food stalls, officials have launched a crackdown to enforce the ban.

Led by Dr. Ravindra and Kantharaju, the city and district Food Safety Officers have formed a 20-member team to conduct inspections and raids across Mysuru. Over the past week, food safety officers from every taluk have inspected 59 hotels and small canteens to ensure compliance with the ban.

This morning, the raids were continued at Saraswathipuram and Kukkarahalli areas where a lot of street vendors serve breakfast.

During these inspections, eight establishments were found violating the rule by using plastic sheets while preparing idlis. Notices were issued, penalties were imposed and vendors were educated on the importance of safety and hygienic food preparation.

In addition to the crackdown on plastic use, officials have also collected five samples of green peas from various taluks for laboratory testing. The samples have been sent for analysis and further action will be taken based on the results.

Traditionally, cloth was used while steaming idlis to keep the batter intact, allowing steam to circulate evenly and ensuring a soft, well-cooked texture. However, in recent times, many hotels and eateries have switched to using plastic sheets instead — an alarming trend with serious health risks.

When exposed to high heat, plastic releases harmful chemicals, some of which are carcinogenic. These toxic substances can leach into the food and enter the body, increasing the risk of long-term health issues, including cancer.

Experts warn that plastics contain bisphenol A (BPA), phthalates and dioxins, all of which have been linked to hormone disruption and various cancers. Additionally, micro-plastics can accumulate in the body over time, further elevating health risks.

Penalise plastic hoarders

According to the public, many officials are aware of traders hoarding plastic sheets and bags worth lakhs of rupees but hesitate to act against them due to their influence. Instead, enforcement is limited to small roadside vendors. But authorities fail to target storage hubs where plastic is stocked. The Government's inaction has led to plastic waste choking streets, drains, and rivers, creating massive garbage dumps and health hazards, they said.

In Mysuru, retailers hoard single-use plastics worth lakhs of rupees, while fines on small vendors achieve little. To make a real impact, authorities must take bold action, impose hefty penalties and ensure strict enforcement, they added.

Budget Session begins

(Continued from page 1)

CM Siddaramaiah, who also holds the Finance Portfolio, will present the 2025-26 Budget on Mar. 7, which is likely to have an outlay of Rs. 4 lakh crore. The session is scheduled to conclude on Mar. 21. This will be Siddaramaiah's 16th Budget presentation and just two behind the record of former Gujarat Finance Minister Vajubhai Vala, who presented 18 Budgets. Vala had also served as Karnataka Governor, preceding the current incumbent Thaawarchand Gehlot.

During the Session, the Opposition is likely to target Siddaramaiah for his alleged involvement in the MUDA scam and also take on the Government over its preparedness for the upcoming summer season, which is expected to be harsh this year and high borrowings of the State Government.

The BJP is also likely to take forward its demand for a white paper on the State's finances, during the course of the Session.

Special ramp

Meanwhile, the authorities have set up a special ramp to enable the ailing CM to enter the Vidhana Soudha. Siddaramaiah, who is suffering from knee problems, underwent a knee procedure at a Bengaluru Hospital recently and has been advised 6-week rest. Subsequently, the CM is using a wheel-chair for movements.

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Universities are ailing due to lack of Government funds: Prof. K.S. Rangappa

Prof. Rangappa

Mysuru, Mar. 3 (GA&DM)- Former Vice-Chancellor of University of Mysore (UoM) Prof. K.S. Rangappa, who is also the Vice-President of UoM Alumni Association, opined that Universities are ailing these days for want of Government funds.

He was speaking at the AGM of the Association at its office opposite Saraswathipuram Fire Station here yesterday.

Pointing out that the Association has been in existence since 1999, Prof. Rangappa said it was inactive for the past several years and it was revived after he became VC over a decade ago.

"There are instances where the Alumni Associations have set up Universities in foreign countries. But in our country, several Universities have become sick for want of Government support. Higher education in the country, especially studies and research in Science and Technology, has been in shambles," he rued.

Highlighting that we have to find a solution for this problem, he suggested setting up of a Trust for collecting donations from Varsity students who have settled abroad. The funds so collected, can also be used for distribution of scholarship for talented students, he added.

Stating that one of the members of the Association has brought a High Court stay on holding elections of its office-bearers, he advocated the need for maintaining unity by sorting out any differences between members. He said that polls will be held soon for electing 13 office-bearers, who will later elect the President and Vice-President.

Former Kashmir Varsity VC Prof. J.A.K. Tareen said that the Association members are like members of a single family. "Everyone should set aside their egos and work in an organised manner for the welfare of the Association and strive for the development of the University and its students," he pointed out.

Association President Prof. S.N. Hegde, who is also a former UoM VC, former VCs Prof. Ramegowda and Prof. G. Hemanth Kumar, Syndicate member Chandrashekar and others were present.

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Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520 / 2496521 / 2496522 / 2496523 / 2496526 / 2496527 / 2496528. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.

Media Habba-2025: Info Commissioner lists dos and don'ts to be a good journalist

Mysuru, Mar. 3 (SBD&BS)- Karnataka Information Commissioner K. Badruddin, who was a journalist earlier, opined that to be a successful journalist, it is essential to develop certain trait such as motherly heart, patience, tolerance, Constitutional awareness and knowledge of deep study.

He was addressing the gathering during the valedictory of two-day Media Habba-2025 (Media Fest) titled 'Yen Samachara,' organised by Karnataka Media Academy (KMA) in association with the Department of Information and Public Relations and the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Mysore (UoM), at Humanities auditorium here recently.

Badruddin said, there is a huge hope on journalism students, who should understand that there is no short-cut to success. When everybody comes to your contact, you should not develop arrogance, but should not forget that it is the respect towards the profession. "We should have a serious approach towards all in this sacrosanct profession and mainly the awareness about Constitution. When there is a decline in credibility, Right to Information (RTI) Act is every essential tool for the media, which should be used judiciously," said Badruddin.

In the changing era, the technology is growing rapidly, but still the journalistic values should be practiced. The tactic and ability to face any situation should be developed, as the print media has retained the ethics to an extent, amid the reign of social media, he said. It is a lie that, the future of media is bleak. If the journalist H.R. Ranganath has tasted enormous success, it is mainly due to his ability to study.

"Ranganath was voraciously reading 14 newspapers daily and had the ability to recall the headlines and the pages on which they have appeared. The success is guaranteed, if a journalist is faithful and credible," said Badruddin.

Prof. Niranjan Vanalli, VC of Bangalore North University, said, the educational qualification alone won't guarantee job. Hence, we have been trying to teach the students as per the relevance in media and media education. When some of the institutions are closing Journalism Departments, the teaching faculty should question their conscience. It is essential to prepare people enriched in values along with skills in the students.

Ayesha Khanum, Chairperson of Karnataka Media Academy, said that the Government Colleges teaching journalism, should also update themselves on the lines of Medical and Engineering Colleges. The Kannada students should be moulded as national level journalists.

K.V. Prabhakar, Media Advisor to the CM, said: "Journalism has not lost its moral values, but there is a rise in fake news. Such is the situation that, we have to rely on Fact Check to understand what is the real news. Presently, more priority is for news related to politics, cinema and crime. While there has been a decline in news concerning the common man. The journalists should work as a bridge between the media and Government and bring positive matters to light."

Journalist Radha Hiregoudar, KMA Secretary M. Sahana and Journalism & Mass Communication Department Chairperson Prof. N. Mamatha were present.

Amrita Vidyalayam Champions

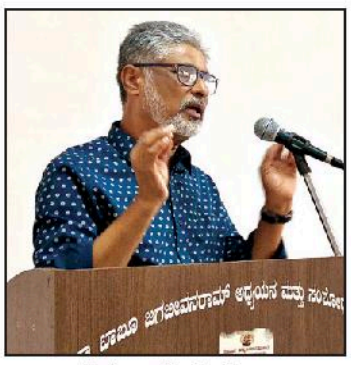
As many as 230 students from 18 colleges participated in 'Yen Samachara' Media Fest.

The students of Amrita Vidyalayam, who won in maximum competitions organised as part of the Fest, emerged as the Champions. The University of Mysore (UoM) had to be content with Runner-Up Trophy.

'Children lack interest in reading books'

Mysuru, Mar. 3 (MK&BS)- Writer Rahamath Tarikere, also the thinker and Visiting Faculty of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Research and Extension Centre, University of Mysore (UoM), has said, the culture of reading books is on wane, amid the era where 'seeing and hearing' has become a fad.

He was delivering a lecture on the topic 'The Role of Prasaranga in Building Culture,' organised at Kuvempu Auditorium, Prasaranga, UoM, Manasagangothri here recently.



Rahamath Tarikere

Tarikere said, the new generation is turning their back towards the books, an indication of change from 'Print Culture to Digital Culture.' There is a change in idea towards books, as the younger generation has lost patience to read. However, they will be glued to mobile phone for hours, thus losing their interest in reading books.

Even on social media, the interest towards reading a post is for about 50 words. If any content exceeds the given number of words, the users prefer to swipe up, he rued.

"Nowadays, the books are like endangered animals. Despite having better libraries, with a good collection of books, the number of readers is diminishing. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, in his life had read about 50,000 books, with the notes available from about 40,000 books. It is a matter of pride that, we have been functioning on the ethos of the Constitution authored by Ambedkar," asserted Tarikere.

"Like the phrase 'Nahi Jnanena Sadrusham,' we had believed that 'there is nothing above knowledge.' Now, the learned lot have become corrupt and the Poet Laureate Kuvempu had once said, education turns man into animal. There is a tendency to address Kuvempu singularly in social media. So, it is inevitable to teach humanity and wisdom along with knowledge."

"Kuvempu and De. Jaware Gowda (De.Ja.Gow) had argued that, the books authored by scholars of the world should be available in Kannada. The tax paid by the people should be spent on providing education, health and food to the people. It is indeed a anti-knowledge move that the tax is being imposed on supplying books that educate the people."

"University of Mysore has made enormous contributions towards literature in poetry form in Halagannada. Prasaranga of the Varsity has been involved in the task of disseminating knowledge and thinking, thus playing a key role in building the culture, becoming a part of the rich tradition. In the Syndicate Meeting of Mysore University held in 1916, the then Maharaja Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar gave a call for reaching the knowledge to those who cannot access the Varsity. Following which, the teaching faculty goes to villages to deliver lectures on astronomy, planets, geography, *tripadi* and Pampa, a rare experiment considered as a model for others, with the Mysore University holding the credit," he said.

Condolences were paid to Dr. K. Kempegowda and K.G. Prakash, who had served Prasaranga, on their passing away recently.

Singer Amma Ramachandra rendered invocation. Dr. H.P. Manju compered the programme.

Director of Prasaranga Nanjaiah Honganur, Superintendent Channappa, Director of Printing Press Satish, Vijayamma, Lalitha and Renuka were present on the occasion.

'More educational institutions will become autonomous in next 10 years'

Prof. M.K. Ramaswamy, a former Principal of Maharaja's PU College and Science writer, who was felicitated along with his wife Prameela, at the IEI premises on JLB Road in city recently, seen with the guests.

Mysuru, Mar. 3 (MTY&DM)- Former KSOU Vice-Chancellor Dr. N.S. Ramegowda said that higher education is undergoing a transformation in the State with more number of University affiliated Educational Institutions set to become autonomous in the next 10 years. He was speaking after inaugurating the programme organised by M.K. Ramaswamy Sneha Balaga to honour Prof. M.K. Ramaswamy, a former Principal of Maharaja's PU College and Science writer, at Institution of Engineers-India (IEI) on JLB Road in city recently.

Noting that in the past there were only a few State-run Universities, Prof. Ramegowda said, now things are changing fast, with several private and deemed Universities coming up, thus expanding the scope of higher education.

"The scenario and scope of higher education is changing with the springing up of private Universities, which should be noticed by the teaching faculty and all others. At present, there are more than 450 State-run Universities, with over 50,000 colleges affiliated to them. Currently, the Universities can be classified under three categories — Government, Private and Deemed, and in the next 10 years, most of the University affiliated colleges may disappear," he observed.

Recalling the services of Prof. Ramaswamy, he said that Prof. Ramaswamy is one of the few teachers who remain forever etched in the minds of students, for his teaching skills and mastery of the subject.

Marking his 75th birthday, Prof. M.K. Ramaswamy and his wife Prameela were felicitated on the occasion.

Former MLC Marithibbegowda presided. Retired DPUE B.S. Sridhar Raje Urs delivered the felicitation address. Former Principals Dr. Honnaiah, S. Chidambara and others were present.

Prize winners of 38th Edition of Air Force Golf Cup - 2025

Mysuru, Mar. 3- Following are the prize winners of the 38th Edition of Air Force Golf Cup-2025 held on Mar. 1 and 2 at J.W. Golf Club, Mysuru:

Strokeplay Gross: M. Chirayu (69 Gross) - Winner; M.G. Chengappa (76 Gross) - Runner (Better Back 9 Over K. B. Kushalappa).

Strokeplay Net (H/C 0 to 12): Rear. Admiral Ravi Gaikwad (65 Net) - Winner; K.B. Kushalappa (69 Net) - Runner.

Strokeplay Net (H/C 13 to 18): Dr. N. Abhishek (64 Net) - Winner; Ranjith Sanath (66 Net) - Runner (Better Back 6 Over B.N. Satheesha).

Stableford Net (H/C 0 to 18): J. Mahesh (41 Points) - Winner; Dr. S. Ravi Kumar (39 Points) - Runner (Better Back 9 Over Aditya Chawla & M.S. Yeshwanth).

Stableford Net (H/C 19 to 24): B.N. Satheesha (42 Points) - Winner; M. Suresh (38 Points) - Runner (Better Back 9 Over Siddharth S. Gowda).

Stableford Net (H/C 0 to 24) for Seniors - 65 Years & Above: K.N. Devaraju (37 Points) - Winner (Better Back 9 Over H.S. Gopinath); H.S. Gopinath (37 Points) - Runner.

*A group photo of the prize winners of the 38th Edition of Air Force Golf Cup-2025 held on Mar. 1 and 2 at J.W. Golf Club, Mysuru. Seen are (sitting from left) **Wg. Cdr. Pradeep Pillai, M. Preethal, H.C. Hrishikesh, M.G. Chengappa, M. Chirayu, Dr. N. Abhishek, J. Mahesh, Wg. Cdr. Anish and B.N. Satheesha;** (standing) **Dr. S. Ravi Kumar, Wg. Cdr. Narendra Singh, H.S. Gopinath, K.N. Devaraju, JWGC Hon. Secretary V.G. Achar, Air Vice Marshal J.T. Kurien, K.M. Achaiah, JWGC President Dr. Abraham Thomas, Ranjith Sanath, Wg. Cdr. M.D. Aiyanna, Rear Admiral Ravi Gaikwad, Air Cmdr. Abhijeet Tokekar, Air Vice Marshal Singh, K.B. Kushalappa, JWGC Captain M.S. Yeshwanth and JWGC Hon.Treasurer R.S. Nitish.***

Stableford Net (H/C 0 to 24) for Super Seniors 75 Years & Above: Wg. Cdr. M.D. Aiyanna (36 Points) - Winner.

Best Gross Scores for Air Force Golfers Only: Wg. Cdr. Anish (72 Net) - Winner; Wg. Cdr. Pradeep Pillai (77 Net) - Runner.

Best Lady Golfer (Stableford Net H/C 0 to 30): M. Preethal (34 Points) - Winner. **Closest to Pin - 2nd Hole:** H.C. Hrishikesh (10 Feet 1 Inches) - Winner. **Straightest Drive - 14th Hole:** Dr. T. Manjunath (On The Line) - Winner.

A total of 207 golfers took part in the Tournament sponsored by No. 2 Air Force Selection Board, Mysuru, according to a press release from JWGC Captain M.S. Yeshwanth and Hon. Secretary V.G. Achar.

Jai Hind CC to host M.N. Bhagath Simha Memorial Cricket Tournament in city

Bhagath Simha

Mysuru, Mar. 3 (VNS)- City based **Jai Hind Cricket Club (JHCC)** will be conducting a State Level T20 Cricket Tournament in memory of its Founder M.N. Bhagath Simha from Mar. 6 to 9 at SDNR Wadiyar Stadium and JSS-SJCE Grounds.

Three Clubs from Mysuru (Jai Hind Cricket Club, JoJo Cricket Club and Navodaya Cricket Club) and five Clubs from Bengaluru (Swastik Union Cricket Club, Vijaya Cricket Club, Rajajinagar Cricketers, Cambridge Cricket Club and Bangalore Occasionals) will be taking part in the tournament.

The tournament will feature players such as R. Smaran, Vidyadhar Patil, Kranthi Kumar, M.G. Naveen, M.B. Darshan, Gowtham Sagar, L.R. Kumar, Lochan Appanna, Prakhar Chaturvedi, Shubhang Hegde, Dheeraj Gowda, S.U. Karthik, Vishal Onat, Sujay Sateri, Rohan Patil, Nihal Ullal, S. Ishaan, Samit Dravid, Kruthik Krishna, B.M. Shreyas among others who have represented Karnataka in Ranji Trophy, State U25, U23 and U19 teams, Maharaja Trophy and also University Cricket Teams.

The organisers have ensured that two players from mofussil regions, comprising of KSCA Six Zones (Mysuru, Mangaluru, Tumakuru, Dharwad, Raichur and Shivamogga), are part of playing XI of every team. The tournament will be played in coloured attire and white ball. The winners of the tournament will walk away with a prize money of Rs. 1.5 lakh while the runner-up team will be awarded Rs. 1 lakh. This apart, the Best Batsman, Best Bowler and Best All-Rounder of the tournament will be awarded with a prize money of Rs. 10,000 each and the Player of the Match will receive Rs. 2,000 cash reward.

About M.N. Bhagath Simha

M.N. Bhagath Simha, a Founding-Member and the first Captain of Jai Hind Cricket Club (JHCC), served as its Secretary from 1964 until his passing in 2018 at the age of 79.

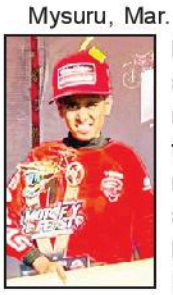
Under his leadership, JHCC became one of the State's premier cricket clubs, winning numerous trophies and becoming the first private club in Karnataka to rise from 5th division to the 1st division. He was also President of the Mysore Underwriters Sports Club.

A qualified cricket umpire since 1960, Bhagath Simha was the first mofussil umpire to officiate in major tournaments and played an instrumental role in establishing the Cricket Umpires Guild in Mysuru serving as its Secretary (1989-1996) and President (1996-2005). He also served on the KSCA Mysuru Zonal Committee in various roles, including selector and Chairman of the Tournament Committee.

His contributions to cricket extended beyond umpiring and administration. He guided numerous players to higher levels. He was recognised for his contributions to cricket with several accolades from organisations like Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) during the inauguration of its Platinum Jubilee celebrations, National Cricket Club, Association of Cricket Umpires of Karnataka (ACUK) and Basavanagudi Cricket Academy.

Bhagath Simha remained dedicated to the game and provided valuable input to the Mysuru Zone Committee till his very end.

Mysuru boy shines in Motocross



Mohd. Arman

Mysuru, Mar. 3 (PM&VNS)- Mohd. Arman, a 11-year-old racing prodigy from Mysuru, made waves at the recently held Motofy Fest at Poornima University premises in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Arman, riding on his Gas-Gas MC65 bike, who won first prize in the U-15 category of the motocross event, also secured 4th place in the Foreign Open category competing with senior riders. Apart from that, Arman stood 4th in the Beginners Category.

He was honoured with a cheque for Rs. 8,000 along with a memento. The University Council Members also announced scholarship for Arman for his achievement.

Arman, a 7th std student at St. Joseph Central School in Bannimantap, Mysuru, is the son of Imran, a car mechanic.

CHAMPIONS TROPHY 2025 - PAKISTAN
TOMORROW'S MATCH MAR. 4
India Vs Australia
Dubai International Stadium - 2.30 pm
YESTERDAY'S RESULT
India 249/9 (50 overs) BEAT New Zealand 205 (45.3 overs)
Live action on: Star Sports Network & JioHotstar

WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE
TODAY'S MATCH MAR. 3
UP Warriorz Vs GG
Ekana Cricket Stadium B Ground - 7.30 pm
Live action on: Star Sports Network & JioHotstar

WORD OF THE DAY

Cryptic

Pronunciation: KRIP-tik (adjective).
Meaning: Something described as cryptic has or seems to have a hidden meaning, or is difficult to understand.
Origin: The history of cryptic starts with krýptein, a Greek word meaning "to hide or conceal." Can you uncover other krýptein relatives in English? Not surprisingly, crypt, meaning "underground chamber," is one, as is the name of the element krypton. Krýptein also gave us several words having to do with secret codes, such as cryptogram ("a communication in cipher or code") and cryptography ("the coding and decoding of secret messages"). And cryptocurrency is currency that exists digitally and that relies on computer encryption (secret code) to prevent counterfeiting and fraud.
Example: "When Neon first met with 'Longlegs' writer-director Osgood Perkins, [chief marketing officer, Christian] Parkes' team pitched a cryptic viral ad campaign that put viewers in the perspective of Maika Monroe's detective. ... 'We give the audience these clues that they can piece together to unlock the mystery of the film,' Parkes explains." —Tim Grierson, The Los Angeles Times, 2 Jan. 2025.

THE ODD WORD

Caisson

Vehicle or chest for holding ammunition.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Caught between two stools

Meaning: The phrase 'Caught between two stools' means that a mission or task has not been executed, due to not being able to pick between 2 options.
Origin: From an old phrase, "Between two stools, one falls to the ground", which dates from 1390. This, in turn, is most likely a translation of the medieval Latin proverb labitur enitens sellis herere duabus ("he falls trying to sit on two seats"). This old phrase was first spotted in John Gower's Confessio Amantis, 1390: "Bot it is seid - Betwen tuo Stoles lyth the fal..."
Example: "This course is too difficult for beginners, but too simple for a knowledge student. It's caught between two stools."

QUOTE BOX

There's always room for a story that can transport people to another place.

—J.K. Rowling

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

TNIOP
TNIOP
TNIOP

Answer: Three point turn.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

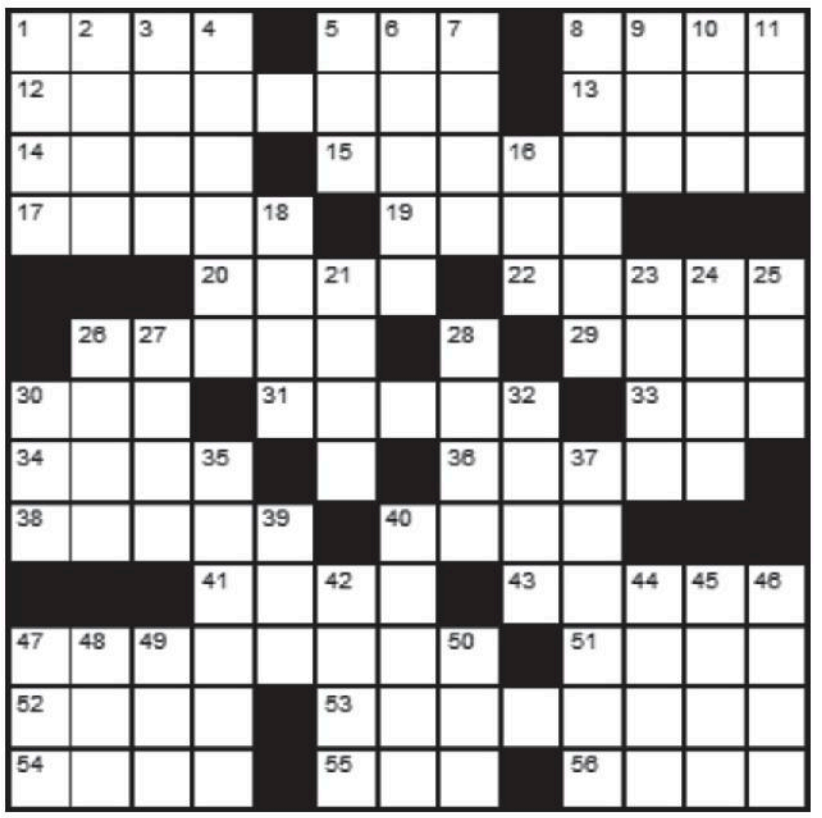
1 Japanese rice drink
5 Actor Gibson
8 ___ Khayyam
12 Good-looking
13 Mountain range
14 One of the Great Lakes
15 Indicating or meaning
17 Tin or iron
19 Invitation words, briefly
20 Averse to work
22 To do with hearing
26 Hearty enjoyment
29 Brass instrument
30 High mountain - "lap" anagram?
31 A red dye - "noise" anagram?
33 State of drowsy contentment
34 Successor
36 A hard heat-resistant glass
38 Spanish title of respect for a man
40 Understanding term? (1,3)
41 Light melodies
43 Entertainment unit - the idiot box (2,3)
47 Brass instruments
51 "To be" in Paris?
52 Sort or kind
53 Unplaced horses in a race; nonentities (colloquial) (4-4)
54 Spoke or uttered
55 "The" in German
56 Organs of sight

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

O	K	A	Y		I	B	E	X		S	P	A
R	I	C	E		N	A	R	Y		P	R	O
S	E	R	A		C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N
O	V	E	R	E	A	T		E	L	I		
			N	W	S		A	N	O	N	Y	M
R	U	P	E	E		A	L	E		G	O	B
O	L	I	D		R	I	B		S	U	R	A
A	N	C		O	P	T		H	O	P	E	S
D	A	T	I	N	G		G	A	Z			
		U	L	T		D	R	I	Z	Z	L	E
P	A	R	L	A	N	C	E		L	O	I	N
O	B	E		P	O	L	E		E	N	D	O
X	E	D		E	R	I	K		D	E	O	L

DOWN

1 "Mesh" anagram for a Biblical character?
2 Swiss river - change of "area"?
3 Make a cardigan
4 Role models
5 Chic or fashionable
6 Former Arsenal head coach Unai ___
7 Camera eye
8 Production
9 Ministry of Radio Industry
10 Hindi movie of days gone by - "An a" anagram
11 Ring Laser Gyro
16 Eggs
18 Deceased
21 Move rapidly
23 High-ranking British peer
24 Mountain goat
25 Lummox
26 Jubilation
27 __ __ arms : riled? (2,2)
28 Joints between leg and trunk
30 American Helicopter Society
32 Russian no
35 Wandered about aimlessly
37 Think highly of
39 Tear or split open
40 Tropical fibre
42 Peruse
44 Support
45 A type of sea eagle
46 Thomas Hardy's heroine?
47 Text to speech, acronym
48 Scandinavian rug with colourful design
49 India's real-time payment system
50 Former Russian abbreviation?



SUDOKU

					1		6	
	7			2		1		
6				5	9			3
	8	4						6
		9				8		
5						9	1	
8			2	6				4
		2		7			3	
	4		5					

Answer to previous puzzle

4	6	3	5	7	9	8	2	1
2	7	8	4	1	6	5	3	9
9	1	5	8	2	3	7	4	6
3	4	6	7	5	2	9	1	8
5	8	9	3	4	1	6	7	2
7	2	1	6	9	8	3	5	4
1	9	7	2	8	5	4	6	3
6	5	2	9	3	4	1	8	7
8	3	4	1	6	7	2	9	5

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

MBLTL AOO RLD XBYDE AOYEL, DZ

ZDL XBYDEW PLTN RSIB

TODAY'S CLUE: B EQUALS H

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see.

MOVIE LOVERS

NOW SHOWING - SINGLE SCREEN THEATRES

- **Gayathri Theatre** — **Ph: 2443568**
  Chhaava (H) - 4 Shows
- **Mahadeshwara Theatre** — **Mob: 99008-20093**
  1990s (K) - 4 Shows
- **Woodlands Theatre** — **Ph: 2422871**
  Dragon (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Thibbadevi Theatre** — **Ph: 2452958**
  Forest (K) - 4 Shows
- **Padma Theatre** — **Ph: 2521923**
  Shabhash Baddimagne (K) - 4 Shows
- **Lido Theatre** — **Ph: 2420885**
  1990s (K) - 4 Shows
- **Prabha Theatre** — **Mob: 98454-14691**
  Bhagiratha (K) - 4 Shows
- **Rajkamal Theatre** — **Ph: 2423554**
  Sabdham (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Sangam Theatre** — **Ph: 2520494**
  Apaayavide Eccharike (K) - 2 Shows *FIR 6 to 6 (K)* - 2 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** — **Mob: 98863-25207**
  Badass Ravikumar (H) - 3 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

1990s (K)	(S-1)	9.40 am
Dragon (Ta)	(S-1)	1.00 pm, 7.20 pm, 10.30 pm
Chhaava (H)	(S-1)	4.10 pm
	(S-4)	9.50 am, 1.10 pm, 7.00 pm, 10.15 pm
Apaayavide Eccharike (K)	(S-2)	10.10 am
Monk The Young (K)	(S-2)	1.10 pm
Aghathiyaa (Ta)	(S-2)	4.15 pm
A Complete Unknown (E)	(S-2)	7.20 pm, 10.30 pm
Viramada Nantara (K)	(S-3)	10.30 am
Sabdham (Ta)	(S-3)	1.10 pm
Shabhash Baddimagne (K)	(S-3)	4.20 pm
Machante Maalakha (Ma)	(S-3)	7.20 pm
Sundeep Kishan Mazaka (Te)	(S-3)	10.15 pm
FIR 6 to 6 (K)	(S-4)	7.00 pm

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Sabdham (Ta)	(S-1)	10.15 am, 9.15 pm
Forest (K)	(S-1)	1.35 pm
Shabhash Baddimagne (K)	(S-1)	4.20 pm
FIR 6 to 6 (K)	(S-1)	7.00 pm
Chhaava (H)	(S-2)	10.30 am, 1.30 pm, 4.30 pm, 7.45 pm
	(S-4)	6.15 pm, 915 pm
Nagavalli Bangale (K)	(S-3)	10.30 am
Monk The Young (K)	(S-3)	12.50 pm
Apaayavide Eccharike (K)	(S-3)	3.30 pm

PVR CINEMAS — 4K Dolby 7.1

Nexus Centre City Mall, 2nd Floor. Mob: 8951357139

FIR 6 to 6 (K)	:	11. 00 am
Shabhash Baddimagne (K)	:	11.55 am
Chhaava (H)	:	12.05 pm, 12.30 pm, 2.50 pm, 3.50 pm, 6.10 pm, 7.10 pm, 9.30 pm, 10. 30 pm
1990s (K)	:	12.15 pm
Sabdham (Ta)	:	12.40 pm, 6.55 pm
Monk The Young (K)	:	1.35 pm
Officer on Duty (Ma)	:	3.25 pm, 10.10 pm
Mazaka (Te)	:	3.40 pm, 9.45 pm
Dragon (Ta)	:	3.45 pm, 6.20 pm, 10.00 pm
Apaayavide Eccharike (K)	:	4.30 pm
A Complete Unknown (E)	:	6.45 pm
Viramada Nantara (K)	:	7.30 pm
Conclave (E)	:	9.30 pm

1st Floor, Garuda Mall. Mob: 9901373210

Chhaava (H)	:	12 noon, 12.30 pm, 3.20 pm, 3.50 pm 6.40 pm, 9.45 pm, 10 pm, 10.30 pm
Mazaka (Te)	:	12.50 pm, 6.45 pm
Dragon (Ta)	:	1.00 pm, 7.20 pm, 10.15 pm
Sabdham (Ta)	:	4.10 pm, 7.10 pm

Mysuru wildlife photographer's film to be screened at BIFFes

Dr. Lokesh Mosale

Mysuru, Mar. 3- **'Hakkiya Nelada Haadu' (An Earthy Ode to Teeyee... Teweet...),** a film directed by Mysuru-based wildlife photographer Dr. Lokesh Mosale, will be screened at the ongoing Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) at Orion Mall in Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, on Mar. 7 at 4.30 pm.

Filmed amidst the picturesque landscapes of Mysuru, specifically at the fledgling R.T. Nagar Layout, this film has been screened at International Film Festivals and has been well-received by the audience.

The film sheds light on the life and struggles of Yellow-wattled Lapwing (Haladi Tittiba) bird amidst development that is taking shape due to human's greed and man-animal-birds conflict.

This film is being screened at the BIFFes, which is being held on the theme 'Sarva Janangada Shantiya Thota' on invitation.

This cinematic masterpiece has been screened at many International Film Festivals including Wildlife Conservation Film Festival in New York, China International Green Film Week and Kuala Lumpur Eco Film Festival in Malaysia.

Also, the film was officially selected for Indo-French International Film Festival, Chithra Bharati Film Festival and Mysuru Dasara Film Festival.

Originally in the Kannada language, the film has been expertly crafted with script and cinematography by Dr. Lokesh Mosale, compilation and editing by M.N. Swamy, sound design (soundscape) by Babu Eshwar Prasad and produced by Gravity-1.

EVENTS TODAY (MARCH 3)

- **Elder Citizens' Council, Jayalakshmipuram:** Interaction on Union Budget by MRT and Co. Chartered Accountant Mahesh, Saraswati Samudaya Bhavan, Council premises, **5 pm.**
- **Sri Ramakrishna (RK) Ashram:** Annual Celebrations - Sandhyarati, **5.30 pm;** Discourse in Kannada on 'Swami Vivekananda - A Universal Ideal' by Swami Nirbhayananda Saraswati, Adhyaksha, Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Ashram, Gadag-Vijayapura, **5.45 pm;** Flute recital by Pt. Ravi Shankar Mishra, renowned Hindustani flautist, Mysuru and Troupe, Ashram premises, Yadavagiri, **6.45 pm to 8.15 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (MARCH 4)

- **Sri Raghavendraswamy Seva Samiti, Jayalakshmipuram:** Sri Raghavendraswamy Pattabhisheka and Vardhanti Mahotsava, Sri Vedavyasa Ashtaakshara Mantra Mahayaga and Purushasukta Homa and Srisukta Homa, Mutt premises, **6.30 am.**
- **Nanjangud Sri Raghavendraswamy Mutt, Subbarayanakere:** Guruvaibhavotsava 2025, Ashtadravya Mahaganapathy Homa, Mutt premises, **7 am.**
- **Department of Swasthavritta and Yoga, Government Ayurveda Medical College (GAMC) and Hospital, Mysuru, Government Ayurveda Research Centre, Mysuru and Department of Studies (DoS) in Botany, University of Mysore (UoM):** National Workshop on 'Yakshma Samvada,' UoM VC Prof. N.K. Lokanath inaugurates, former KIDWAI Director Dr. Vijaylakshmi Deshamane releases Ayush4U Journal, Adichunchanagiri University (ACU) VC Dr. M.A. Shekar delivers keynote address, GAMC Principal Dr. K.S. Radhakrishna RamaRao presides, Vijnana Bhavana, Manasagangothri, **10 am.**
- **Kannada Department and IQAC, MMK&SDM College for Women and Sharana Sahitya Parishat, City Unit:** International Seminar on 'Vachana Sahitya Vartamanada Spandane,' Dr. Aravind Malagatti, Visiting Professor, Sri Basaveshwara Research and Extension Centre for Social Reformation, University of Mysore, inaugurates, College auditorium, Krishnamurthypuram, **10.15 am.**
- **Sri Ramakrishna (RK) Ashram:** Annual Celebrations - Sandhyarati, **5.30 pm;** Discourse in Kannada on 'Jeevana Shilpi - Shrimate Sharadadevi' by Swami Mokshatmanandaji, Ramkrishna Mission Ashram, Belagavi, **5.45 pm;** Gana Keertana on Holy Trio by Surmani Dr. Dattatreya Velankar, renowned Hindustani Vocalist, Bengaluru and Troupe, Ashram premises, Yadavagiri, **6.45 pm to 8.15 pm.**

INOX — LIVE the MOVIE

Mall of Mysore - Mob: 7829999465

A Complete Unknown (E)	:	4.30 pm
Chhaava (H)	:	11.30 pm, 12.30 pm, 3.50 pm, 6.10 pm 7.10 pm, 9.30 pm, 10.30 pm
Dragon (Ta)	:	12.45 pm, 7.00 pm
Sabdham (Ta)	:	2.50 pm, 10.20 pm
Monk The Young (K)	:	7.40 pm

INOX Centro Mysore - Mob: 9606976757

Chhaava (H)	:	10.25 am, 11.40 am, 12.30 pm, 3.50 pm, 7.10 pm, 9.35 pm, 10.15 pm, 10.30 pm
Officer on Duty (M)	:	1.15 pm, 7.20 pm
FIR 6 to 6 (K)	:	1.45 pm
Sabdham (Ta)	:	3.00 pm
Mazaka (Te)	:	4.15 pm
Shabhash Baddimagne (K)	:	4.20 pm
1990s (K)	:	6.05 pm
Apaayavide Eccharike (K)	:	7.20 pm
Machante Maalakha (Ma)	:	10.20 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there is no minimum audience of 15.

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